



PLANTING APPLE ORCHARDS.

The Germantown Telegraph gives the following hints on setting out apple orchards. They are, of course, designed for the benefit of those contemplating the more extensive culture of the apple distinctively from all other varieties—which, we are gratified to learn, is the intention of some of our fruit-growers:

We have long been under the impression, brought to it merely by observation, that as a rule the trees in our apple orchards are planted too distantly apart. Many farmers look upon the space usually occupied by orchards as almost so much waste. They say we get so little fruit from the ground taken up by the trees, and we cannot cultivate the orchards as we should like from injury to the roots, etc., so that we are forced, on the score of economy, to abandon apple-raising. Now, practically, an orchard should be an orchard on *its*. Except for grass, it should be left uncultivated after the trees have reached say about four inches in diameter. We can see no reason why a good crop of grasses should not be continually produced for a quarter or a third of a century without disturbance. A top-dressing of manure once in two or three years we know has produced fine yields of grass annually of two crops. The trees have little or no influence upon the crop of grass; indeed if they possess any, it is in affording a heavier swath under the trees.

Hence, instead of setting out young orchards thirty and thirty-five feet apart, reduce the distance to about twenty feet, in the quincunx form; and if at any time the trees should threaten to become a little crowded, prevent it by additional pruning. This is our theory.

The leading purpose of an orchard should be to obtain fruit; next the crop that will do the least damage to the trees. This is grass. Grass, however, will not only do no damage to the apple trees, but the contrary. It keeps the soil moist and of a uniform temperature—protecting the roots in summer against heat and drought, and in winter against the severe effects of alternate thawing and freezing.

It should also be remembered, in setting out young orchards, to get trees as low-branched as possible. They will generally not grow so high, while the low boughs will protect the trunk against the intense rays of the sun in the summer months, which are frequently very injurious to the health and productiveness of the trees.

MECHANICAL AND AGRICULTURAL HINTS; PROPER IMPROVEMENT OF TIME; FUN AND FROLIC.

SPRING LAKE VILLA, DESERET, }
Jan. 22d, 1863.

DEAR NEWS:—Constant application to business of life is my excuse for not often annoying your readers—for tho' it is winter, I find an abundance of amusement, evenings as well as in daylight amid groups of tools in the workshop—an arrangement, by the bye, that should grace every farm and homestead. "A workshop and tools," is of more utility, not only to the parent and adult members of the family, but to the "rising generation," than all the violins and dancing halls in Christendom, and even books lose their value when their theories are not coupled with practical usefulness and the mind and muscle expansion of earnest labor.

In looking about of late, among my neighbors, many of whom, in the winter season, do little more than feed their pigs and keep fires, I feel the great advantage that might be derived from shop and tools. When the winter sleep, of agricultural duties, leaves little for the farmer to do, and time lays heavy upon him, what cheerfulness and utilitarian pleasures would not a shop and tools bring around the farmstead?

A chair wants mending—a cask hooping—a churn to be repaired—a table made or repaired—a bail added to a bucket, the wife needs a washboard, a cupboard and a mop-sick—the plow needs stocking—the wagon to be mended—the hoe and fork a handle and the teeth replaced in the rake—all this and scores of other little jobs amounting to a big thing when the ground is fit to work, or when taken to the mechanics in town—might be done—and a little more economy added to industry, and this is not all, when the sons are thus engaged in agreeable usefulness, they are not brawling in the streets, adopting and practicing all the bad habits and vices of bad associates.

A school of industry and economy like this is far preferable in many cases to a school of books and letters—common sense is a folio that might be studied to great advantage by many. Farmers!—gather up a few tools and try it, it will be a college of inquiry for your self and growing sons.

There is very little of interest transpiring in Payson; amusement seems the order of the night. Terpsichorean exercises are almost nightly transpiring, and the motto is:

"On with the dance, let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when youth and pleasure meet,
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet."

So we have them, cotillion parties, dancing schools and private reunions. The Dramatic Association occasionally favors the citizens with an agreeable performance upon the boards of their commodious hall.

Mechanics who are prepared for business are thronged with customers. A mantle of snow, about a foot deep, seems no obstacle to travelers, for our thoroughfare is well patronized. Contractor Smith brings and takes our mails with great regularity, regardless of the state of weather.

Last evening we had the pleasure of witnessing the performance at Santaquin, of Messrs. Perris, Penrose and Sterrit of your city, consisting of an exhibition of paintings, historical, miscellaneous and comic, through highly magnifying lens, which was not only instructive but amusing. Old and young laughed heartily, and like us no doubt relished their breakfast this morning—

"A little nonsense, now and then,
Is relished by the best of men."

By way of postscript, I would just say to FARMERS AND GARDENERS,

that now is the time, (when the heaps are not frozen) to haul out and distribute manure, to select and prepare seed and grain for planting and sowing—to repair all your tools and implements of husbandry—to bring poles and timber or rock to repair your fences.

Lettuce, radishes, onions and peas should be put into the ground as soon as sufficiently thawed out. Tobacco seed also should be planted as soon as possible. Let every one raise as much of the latter, as well as all other vegetables, as they wish to use, or they may be forced, by scarcity and high prices, to do without.

As few nuts grow without cultivation in this region, secure seed of pea nuts and earth almonds; these do well in our soil and are good eating when better cannot be obtained.

Adois. J.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

PROVO CITY, Utah co., }
Jan. 27, 1863.

ED. DESERET NEWS:

Knowing the interest generally taken in passing events and the state of things in the different localities of Deseret in regard to the general welfare and enterprise of the people, together with their progress in everything that will tend to enlighten or otherwise benefit a community, I will take a mental reconnaissance of Provo and note a few things as they exist at present, and which will not, perhaps, be entirely void of interest.

In these days of telegrams and reports from "Our Own Correspondents," nothing seems worthy of notice but an account of some outrage—the descent of a mob party upon some peaceful neighborhood, destroying buildings, orchards, fields, etc., and turning women and children destitute and homeless upon the liberality of their more fortunate neighbors, (if they have any) or the destruction of railroads, bridges, and other public improvements—or the immense loss of life in some particular engagement—these, I say, are apparently of the most interest to the masses, or at least they furnish the bulk of correspondence, but I take pleasure in noting the reverse in Provo, which in regard to the peace and quiet that exists and also the useful occupations of the people, may be taken as a type of all the localities within the boundaries of this Territory.

The education of the youth seems to elicit, to a pleasing degree, the interest which its importance demands. There are five schools taught in this city, with an average of forty-five scholars in attendance at each school, evincing that attention to the rising generation, which their future prosperity requires.

The present appears to be a season for various amusements, which are, by no means, neglected, and those of an intellectual character attract due attention. A series of public lectures are being delivered on Tuesday evenings at Cluff's hall by different persons upon a variety of subjects to large and attentive audiences, which speak the interest that is taken in them. The subjects that have been treated upon thus far are as follows:

Eternal Riches, a lecture by Mr. A. H. Scott; Education, an essay by Mr. David John; the True Source of Human Happiness, an address by Mr. John McEwan; Optics, a lecture by Mr. H. I. Cooksley; Ambition, an address by Mr. J. J. Fuller; Life and Times of Oliver Cromwell, a lecture by Mr. A. F. McDonald; Phenology, a lecture by Prof. Bee; Language, an essay by Mr. Wm. Reid, and Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, and Joseph, the Prophet, a lecture by Dr. John Rogers.

At the lectures two choirs are in attendance under the respective supervision of Messrs. Wardell and Daniels, and also a band of instrumental music under the direction of Mr. Pace. The whole combined serves to animate and cheer the audience, and render the entertainment decidedly interesting as well as instructive.

Among the diversity of recreations indulged in, the theatre at Cluff's hall has furnished the most profitable entertainments; and in the variety of plays that have been represented, the different characters were generally well personified.

To the traveler or the transient resident, the mechanical genius and agricultural energy of the people might be underrated, building material being, at the present, measurably inaccessible; the enterprise of all classes is

proportionately curtailed, and like the vegetable kingdom lies dormant, and will continue in that state until the proper period arrives for its development. The interim, of course, affords an opportunity for every one to follow their own inclinations in regard to amusements, recreations, etc., which have been principally in the channels which I have described.

J. J.

A STRANGE FAMILY TALE.

An English paper narrates the following extraordinary story:—

"It is said that James, the first Earl of Lonsdale, who from his arbitrary will and ungovernable temper, was nicknamed 'Old Thunder,' had a violent quarrel with his cousin and heir male, Sir William Lowther, of Twillington, to whom he had bequeathed his enormous estates, and whose favor he had obtained a remainder of the barony and viscounty. He drove in a fury to his lawyers, demanded his will from them, that he might destroy it, and set off in a paroxysm of anger for Lowther Castle. What with giving vent to his rage, which with him amounted almost to madness, and what with a fit of the gout, which attacked him on the journey, when he arrived at the castle he was a most senseless. He died the next day. No will was found; such was his fury with his cousin that his lawyers made no doubt but that he kept his word and destroyed it. Sir William Lowther succeeded quietly to the titles and certain entailed estates; but the heiress to by far the greater portion of the deceased lord's wealth was his sister, the Countess of Darlington, mother of the late Duke of Cleve and Lord Darlington was sent for and entered into possession. How long he remained so we have forgotten, but we think it was about three months.

At the end of that time various odds and ends on the premises were doomed to destruction; among other objects, the old traveling chariot was considered not worth retaining. It had been hastily unpacked in the confusion of the earl's arrival in a dying state; it had been hastily wheeled into one of the coach-houses; and had there remained unthought of ever since. It would have been undignified to sell it, and so it was ordered to be burnt. It was brought out, and the work of destruction commenced; but on being broken up for the purpose, it was found there was a false bottom, and in it lay, unconcealed, the will! The finale to the story is equally wonderful. The very night of this extraordinary discovery, that part of the coach-houses where the traveling carriage had stood caught fire, and was burnt to the ground, with everything they contained. Twelve hours' longer concealment, and half Cumberland and Westmoreland would now be belonging to the Vanes instead of the Lowthers."

[From Beecher's Eyes and Ears.]

GOOD NATURE.

If there be one thing for which a man should be more grateful than another, it is the possession of good nature. I do not consider him good tempered who has no temper at all. A man ought to have spirit, strong, earnest, and capable of great indignation. We like to hear a man thunder, once in a while, if it is genuine, and in the right way for a right man. When a noble fellow is brought into contact with mean and little ways, and is tempted by unscrupulous natures to do unworthy things; or when a great and generous heart perceives the wrong done by lordly strength to shrinking, unprotected weakness; or where a man sees the foul mischiefs that sometimes rise and cover the public welfare like a thick cloud of poisonous vapors—we like to hear a man express himself with outburst and glorious anger. It makes us feel safer to know that there are such men. We respect human nature all the more to know that it is capable of such feelings.

But just these men are best capable of good nature. These are the men upon whom a sweet justice in common things, and a forbearance towards men in all the details of life, and a placable, patient and cheerful mind, sit with peculiar grace.

Some men are much helped to do this by a kind of bravery born with them. Some men are good-natured because they are benevolent, and always feel in a sunny mood; some, because they have such vigor and robust health that care flies off from them, and they really cannot feel nettled and worried; some, because a sense of character keeps them from all things unbecomingly manly; and some, from an overflow of what may be called in part animal spirits, and in part, also, hopeful and cheerful dispositions. But whatever be the cause or reason, is there anything else that so much blesses a man in human life as this voluntary or involuntary good nature? Is there anything else that converts all things so much into enjoyment to him? And then what a glow and light he carries with him to others! Some men come upon you like a cloud passing over the sun. You do not know what ails you, but you feel cold and chilly while they are about, and need an extra handful of coal on the fire whenever they tarry long.

Others rise upon you daylight. How many times does a cheerful and hopeful physician cure his patient by what he carries in his face, more than by what he has in his medical case! How often does the coming of a happy-hearted friend lift you up out of a deep despondency, and before you are aware, inspire you with hope and cheer. What a gift it is to make all men better and happier without knowing it! We don't suppose that

flowers know how sweet they are. We have watched them. But as far as we can find out their thoughts, flowers are just as modest as they are beautiful.

Those roses before me, saffataine, lamarque, and saffron, with their geranium leaves (rose) and carnations and abutilon, have made me happy for a day. Yet they stand huddled together in my pitcher without seeming to know my thoughts of them, or the grudging work which they are doing! And how much more is it to have a disposition that carries with it, involuntarily, sweetness, calmness, courage, hope and happiness, to all who are such? Yet this is the portion of good nature in a real, large-minded, strong-natured man! When it has made him happy it has scarcely begun its office!

In this world, where there is so much real sorrow, and so much unnecessary grief of fret and worry; where burdens are so heavy, and the way so long; where men stumble in rough paths; and so many push them down rather than help them up; where tears are as common as smiles, and hearts ache so easily, but are poorly fed on higher joys, how grateful ought we to be that God sends along, here and there, a natural heart-singer—a man whose nature is large and luminous, and who, by his very carriage and spontaneous actions, calms, cheers, and helps his fellows. God bless the good-natured, for they bless everybody else!

ONE WAY OF MARRYING.

In New Hampshire they used to choose all their State, county and town officers, from Governor down to hog reeves, at one town meeting, the annual March meeting. As the town officers were very numerous, it was customary as fast as they were chosen, to walk them up before a justice of the peace and have them sworn into office, "by companies, half-companies, pair and single." "Squire Chase," of Cornish, (father of Governor Chase of Ohio) being the most prominent justice, had this task to perform, and a severe task it was, occupying much of his time from morning till night.

It was on one of these occasions, after the labors and toils of the day were over, he returned to his home weary and overcome with the fatigues of his employment, and throwing himself in his easy chair, he fell into a sound sleep. In the meantime a couple who had been waiting impatiently for some time for the justice to join them in wedlock, presented themselves in another part of the house and made known their interesting desire to Mrs. Chase, who, somewhat confused and agitated, attended them to the sleeping justice, whom she found it difficult to arouse. Shaking him by the shoulder, she called out, "Mr. Chase, Mr. Chase, do pray wake up; here is a couple come to be married." The justice having administered oaths all day, was dreaming of nothing else, half waked, rubbing his eyes and looking at the wistful pair, asked:—

"Are you the couple?"

They nodded assent.

"Well, hold up your hands." They did so with some hesitation. "You severally, solemnly swear that you will faithfully perform the duties of your offices, respectively, according to your best skill and judgment, so help you, &c."

The astonished couple looked wistfully, the justice added soothingly, "That's all, excepting the fee, one dollar," which was quickly dropped into his hand, and they were off, doubting as they went, the legality of the process, but they concluded to go according to the oath.

HOW TO TREAT AN IDLE HUSBAND.—The people (the inhabitants of New Zealand) are much attached to their chiefs. If they require an additional patch of land, or liberty to build a house anywhere, it is granted. If they quarrel among themselves, or have complaints to make, the head chief's ear is kindly opened to all—to the poorest man as well as to the petty chief. If invasion threatens their district, he is in the front ranks to repel it; and let the war cause a sharp skirmish or a great battle, he is away in the front, and where danger presses most, so that he has their love and respect. The head chief often interferes in minor matters of a domestic nature. For instance, if a lazy fellow has a wife or two and a few children, and, through his love for fishing, dancing, or loitering idly about, he neglects to bring in the necessary supplies for his family, a complaint is made. The chief visits the house in person, and if he sees just grounds for punishment, he orders out the whole population of the village. Men, women and children arm themselves with a stiff birch made of canes, and then form a double line, about six feet apart, and wait, with anxious glee, the approach of the delinquent. At last he is placed at one end of the line, amidst a shower of yells, screams, jibes, etc. The word is given by the chief, and away he darts at his utmost speed. According to his deserts, he may get off with running the line once, or may have to do so twice or thrice; but he is skillful in cunning and fleetness that can run the lines even once without having his skin tickled for him by the hearty application of the birch wielded by some strong woman. As the punishment is not of a fatal kind, the whole affair creates unrestricted merriment. For one month afterwards his family are provided by the public at large, under the fatherly superintendence of the chief. At the expiration of that time, if he has all his domestic matters in perfect order, as a good father and provident husband used to have, he again resumes his place in society, and shortly afterwards helps, with an experienced hand, to flagellate some one else.—[Goulton's South America.]